

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05647 180616Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3823
INFO CINCPAC REP GUAM/TTPI
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, EFIS, BP, PP, AS
SUBJECT: USG RESIDENT REPRESENTATION IN HONIARA

REF: PORT MORESBY 1087

1. I FULLY SUPPORT THE CONCEPT EXPRESSED IN PORT MORESBY 1087
TO EFFECT THAT AT SUCH TIME AS THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL
FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (SPRFO) IS FULLY OPERATIONAL IN HONIARA, A
REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE (RFA) SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO HONIARA,
WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPRFO IN PARTICULAR AND SOUTH PACIFIC
COUNTRIES IN GENERAL.

2. I CERTAINLY AGREE THAT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPRFO AND
RECENT UPSURGE OF INTEREST IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AREA ON THE PART OF
THE U.S. TUNA FLEET WE WILL NEED CONSIDERABLY GREATER FISHERIES
EXPERTISE THAN IS NOW AVAILABLE IN AREA. IN ADDITION TO
STAFFDEL HOWELL AND CAPTAIN ZOLEZZI, EMBASSY RECENTLY WAS
VISITED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAPATA MARINE RESOURCES OF
SAN DIEGO AND HOUSTON AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT RICHARD
CHERRY OF VAN CAMP WAS IN TOWN BUT HE DID NOT CALL AT THIS
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EMBASSY. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, H.J. HEINZE IS ALREADY
OPERATING IN FISH PROCESSING WITH EDEN FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE.

3. IN ADDITION TO TUNA, THE U.S. IS AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST
MARKET FOR CRAYFISH (ROCK LOBSTER), WITH EXPORTS TO
U.S. IN FY-76 VALUED AT US DOLS 40 MILLION.

4. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE RFA RESIDENT IN TOKYO ALSO HAS OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC AREA, PRESSURE OF WORK CLOSER TO HOME HAS PROBABLY MADE IT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO VISIT AUSTRALIA (AND WE RATHER ASSUME MOST OTHER SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES) DURING AT LEAST THE PAST THREE YEARS AND PROBABLY LONGER. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS A BRIEF TWO DAY VISIT IN 1977 WITH FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OES, PATSY MINK, AND THIS VISIT WAS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY CONCERNED WITH PROBLEM OF ESKIMOS AND BOWHEAD WHALE.

5. MY ONLY RESERVATION, AND THIS BY NO MEANS IS A VERY STRONG ONE, IS THAT WHILE HONIARA WOULD BE BEST LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED RFA INsofar AS RELATIONS WITH SPFR0 ARE CONCERNED, IT HARDLY WOULD SEEM TO BE IDEAL FOR TRAVEL TO OTHER SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES, AS I UNDERSTAND THAT GETTING INTO AND OUT OF HONIARA IS NOT ALWAYS VERY EASY. UNLESS THE PROPOSED RFA IS VERY ACTIVE THERE WOULD BE A TENDENCY FOR HIM NOT TO TRAVEL AS MUCH AS HE SHOULD.
ALSTON

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